

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Page 1, line 4, insert the heading:

FIELD AND BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 5, lines 5-18, amend the paragraph as follows:

To replace the ankle joint, an endoprosthesis is known comprising a component to be connected to the ankle bone, a component to be connected to the shin bone, and an intermediate part (DE-U-88 12 806, brochure "LINK S.T.A.R. Totale Sprunggelenk-prothese [H. Kofoed] from ~~the company~~ Waldemar Link (GmbH & Co.), Hamburg). The ankle bone component and the intermediate part interact via slide surfaces which permit flexion and extension in the sagittal plane. The shin bone component and the intermediate part form interacting slide surfaces which permit a rotation about the vertical axis of the endoprosthesis. They can be of a plane design in order to permit compensating movements in the antero-posterior (AP) direction and latero-medial (LM) direction. Stabilization is afforded by the natural ligament apparatus.

Page 1, line 32, insert the heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, line 37, to page 2, line 28, amend the paragraphs as follows:

The solution according to the invention lies in the features of ~~claim 1 and those of claim 5~~ the invention as disclosed more broadly and more specifically below. Accordingly, the intermediate part and/or the shin bone component are of a wedge-shaped design. If the operating surgeon finds that the ligament tension is different if a normal prosthesis is used, he can compensate for this by using corrective components which have a wedge shape in the frontal plane. The thicker side of the wedge-shaped corrective plate is arranged on that side on which the ligament tension would be inadequate if normal components were used. If he finds that the tibial resection surface is not perpendicular to the tibial direction or if he wishes, for other reasons, that the prosthesis planes do not extend perpendicular with respect to the axis of the

tibia, he can also use corrective components whose wedge shape lies in the sagittal plane. If the operating surgeon wishes that the lower slide surface of the upper component has a defined orientation with respect to the tibial direction or the direction of loading, he will generally use a shin bone component designed as corrective component. If, by contrast, the orientation of the tibial resection surface is correct and the aim is to take account of the anatomy of the foot, he will prefer an intermediate part designed as corrective component.

~~The present patent~~ This application does not relate to the wedge-shaped design of the intermediate part in the frontal plane since this is the subject matter of the earlier, not prior published patent application PCT/EP02/02573, published in the United States as U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003-0181985-A1, and now U.S. Patent No. 6,852,130.

Page 4, line 3, insert the heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 4, line 29, insert the heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the abstract attached in the first Appendix.